CLAIMS:

1. A method for implementing a database, comprising the steps of,
   - providing at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value;
   - providing an additional entity for at least one set of linked entities; and
   - storing in the additional entity the aggregation of a plurality of data values contained in the at least one set of linked entities.

2. A method for modifying a database having at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value, the method comprising the steps of,
   - providing an additional entity for at least one set of linked entities, and
   - storing in the additional entity the aggregation of a plurality of data values contained in the at least one set of linked entities.

3. A method for reading from a database, the database comprising
   - at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value, and
   - an additional entity for the at least one set of linked entities, the additional entity comprising the aggregation of a plurality of data values stored in the at least one set of linked entities,

   whereby the plurality of data values contained within the at least one set of linked entities may be obtained by performing a read operation on the additional entity.

4. A method in accordance with claim 3 or 4, comprising the further step of determining the read/write ratio of the database.

5. A method in accordance with claim 4, comprising the steps of:

- providing data with regard to the time taken to perform a read operation and a write operation on a first implementation of the database;
- providing data with regard to the time taken to perform a read operation and a write operation on a second implementation of the database;
- calculating a read time difference between the time taken to perform a read operation on a first implementation of a database and a second implementation of a database;
- calculating a write time difference between the time taken to perform a write operation on a first implementation of a database and a second implementation of a database; and
- calculating the ratio between the read time difference and the write time difference to determine the read/write ratio for the database.

6. A system for reading from a database, comprising

- a database arranged to contain at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value,
- means for providing an additional entity for the at least one set of linked entities, the additional entity comprising the aggregation of a plurality of data values stored in the at least one set of linked entities, and
- reading means arranged to read the plurality of data values contained within the at least one set of linked entities by performing a read operation on the additional entity.

7. A system for implementing a database, comprising,
   - means for providing at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value;
   - means for providing an additional entity for at least one set of linked entities; and
   - storing means arranged to store, in the additional entity, the aggregation of a plurality of data values contained in the at least one set of linked entities.

8. A system for modifying a database having at least one set of linked entities, wherein the at least one set of linked entities contains a plurality of entities and each said entity is arranged to store at least one data value, comprising,
   - means for providing an additional entity for at least one set of linked entities, and
   - storing means arranged to store, in the additional entity, the aggregation of a plurality of data values contained in the at least one set of linked entities.

9. A method for determining a read/write ratio for a database, comprising the steps of:
   - providing data with regard to the time taken to perform a read operation and a write operation on a first implementation of the database;
   - providing data with regard to the time taken to perform a read operation and a write operation on a second implementation of the database;
   - calculating a read time difference between the time taken to perform a read operation on a first implementation of a database and a second implementation of a database;
   - calculating a write time difference between the time taken to perform a write operation on a first

implementation of a database and a second implementation of a database; and

- calculating the ratio between the read time difference and the write time difference to determine the read/write ratio for the database.

10. A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the first implementation of a database comprises at least one set of linked entities.

11. A method in accordance with claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the second implementation of a database comprises an aggregation of all data values stored in the at least one set of linked entities.

12. A computer program arranged, when loaded on a computing system, to implement the method of any one of claims 1 to 5.

13. A computer readable medium providing a computer program in accordance with claim 12.